

Sexual assault reports prompt cautiousness

TAYLOR MULLER
ASST. SECTION EDITOR

The UNO campus has seen five reports of sexual assaults in the last 10 months, according to the Campus Crime Log. Three of the incidents took place in campus dormitories, the other two involved individuals in Elmwood Park.

Two of the reported on-campus assaults took place in the University Village, while the third took place in Scott Village.

Before these five reports, the last sexual assault was reported in the crime log on March 23, 2004. According to the log, a "student reported a sexual assault that occurred on Thursday March, 11, 2004 at 9 p.m. in Lot X."

More than two years later, on April 23, 2006, the crime log reported that Campus Security was alerted by the Omaha Police Department regarding a reported "sexual assault in Elmwood Park near the swimming pool." The suspect was described as a Caucasian male, about 6 feet tall and wearing a black hooded sweatshirt.

According to police reports from the incident, the victim was jogging in Elmwood Park. The victim was not affiliated with the university, said Wade Robinson, associate vice chancellor of student affairs.

Another sexual assault was reported on May 13, 2006. A resident of Scott Village reported being touched inappropriately by an unknown male while "asleep in her bed with her boyfriend," according to police reports. The suspect was described as a muscular, 5-foot-6 Caucasian.

On Sept. 22, 2006, "Campus Security received a report of sexual assault that occurred at University Village. Incident

occurred 3:30 a.m., Tuesday, Sept. 19," according to the log.

This was the second report of a sexual assault in the dormitories and the first for University Village since their opening in the fall of 1999, according to the Campus Security Policies and Crime Statistics of 2005.

The victim, a resident of University Village, reported being "sexually assaulted by an acquaintance," according to police reports.

Campus Security then reported, Dec. 28, 2006, encountering "a female reporting an attempted sexual assault against her person in Elmwood Park," according to the crime log.

In a letter to the *Gateway*, Assistant Manager of Campus Security Paul Kosel said, "The victim is not affiliated with UNO. The Omaha Police were notified of the incident by Campus Security."

According to police reports, the victim "ran from the vehicle where the suspect attempted to sexually assault her." A suspect was identified as a Hispanic male in his early 20s.

The Campus Crime Log then reported a sexual assault in the University Village on Feb. 11, 2007.

Kosel said in another letter to the *Gateway*, "The suspect gained access to the room through the unlocked main door."

According to police reports from the incident, a resident of University Village reported being approached from behind while doing homework in the common area of her dorm room. No suspects were

See **ASSAULTS**: Page 4



photo by Patrick Doty

Nice and icy

A wet, slippery snow swept across the campus and the metro Saturday night, ending a streak of near-spring-like weather. A few more wet days are expected before the spring weather reappears, according to the Weather Channel.

UNO, UNK faculty salary increases pose budget crunch for university

SCOTT STEWART
NEWS EDITOR

Faculty at UNO will receive a 4.3 percent pay raise for each of the next two years following the conclusion of a collective bargaining process between the NU administration and the faculty's union.

Members of UNK's faculty will receive a 4.4 percent raise each year of the biennium, and salaries have yet to be determined for UNL and UNMC faculty members or for non-faculty staff members of the university.

The rates were determined through arbitration by Special Master Peter Feuille, who was called in to comply with a state law requiring an independent arbitrator after negotiations had reached an impasse,

according to a statement released by the university Friday morning.

"Dr. Feuille ruled in favor of the union's final offer, chosen as the most reasonable approach to achieving salary comparability among designated peer institutions," according to the statement. "The Special Master determined that UNO and UNK faculty salaries lag behind both peer and regional markets."

NU Assistant Vice President and Chief Negotiator for Collective Bargaining Ed Wimes said both UNL and UNMC salaries are further behind their peers than either UNO or UNK faculty salaries, with UNL faculty needing at least a 3.6 percent increase

See **SALARIES**: Page 4

UNL student president confident about tax-free textbook proposal

PATRICK DOTY
ASST. PHOTO/LINE EDITOR

The official word on how the Nebraska Legislature's Revenue Committee will rule on a bill that would remove taxes on textbooks will be released this week.

Legislative Bill 32, proposed by UNL Student President/Regent Matt Schaefer and introduced by State Sen. Danielle Nantkes of Lincoln, had its hearing with the revenue committee on Friday. The committee has not made any official decisions, but the members will have a private session this week to discuss the bill further, said State Sen. Carroll Burling of Kenesaw, who is a member of the revenue committee.

If passed the bill will remove sales and

use taxes on textbooks for all full- and part-time Nebraska college students. A use tax is a tax on goods purchased in another state for use in Nebraska.

To qualify for exemption, the bill would require students to present a valid student ID upon purchase of any required or recommended course textbooks as well as related workbooks.

After presenting at the hearing, Schaefer is still confident about the future of LB 32.

"We're going to stay positive," Schaefer said. "It's tough to get a bill introduced and passed in one year. I think we need to keep the pressure on to persuade them that this is indeed a wise policy decision."

See **LB 32**: Page 2

News

Scott Stewart | News Editor

Page 2

news@gateway.unomaha.edu | February 27, 2007

From **LB 32**: Page 1

Committee hearings are required of most bills in Nebraska. According to the Nebraska Legislature's Web site, unicam.state.ne.us, committee hearings are a "unique, direct" chance for citizens to influence public policy by presenting opinions on bills to the senators in the committee.

After hearing the testimonies, the committee can vote to send the bill on with or without amendments, kill the bill by postponing it indefinitely or take no action.

Burling said Schaefer did well presenting his argument for LB 32.

"The hearing went very well," Burling said. "The students had everything very well planned; they had the information down pat. It was a very good presentation."

But how a bill is presented is not the only deciding factor on how the committee will rule. Burling said he "wouldn't even want to guess" if the bill would continue past the committee.

"There are many, many bills presented to the revenue committee, each requiring the same type of tax cut," Burling said. "We have to see how many exemptions can be allowed and go from there."

UNO Student President/Regent Alexander Williams said that he thinks LB 32 would be a good addition to the other tax cuts presented to the committee.

"Since the state is looking at a \$200 million tax cut, I think it would be quite appropriate for students to have a tax cut," Williams said.

Freshman Danielle Wood said she agrees the bill would help students, but careful consideration needs to happen.

"Tax-free textbooks would be nice in the short run, but you have to look at what they're going to do in the long run," Wood said. "It's the whole lesser of two evils theory."

News You Can Use

COMPILED BY
KEENA SPENCER-DOBSON
STAFF WRITER

Festival celebrating international culture starts tomorrow

The 35th annual International Cultural Festival is planned for Feb. 28 through March 5.

The International Student Services sponsored event will include an International Cultural Fair on Wednesday, Feb. 28, and Thursday, March 1. Display tables from international students at UNO will be in the Milo Bail Student Center Ballroom and Nebraska Room from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

There will also be an International Banquet held Monday, March 5, in the Milo Bail Student Center Ballroom at 6:30 p.m. The banquet includes an international dinner and entertainment. A dance will be held in the Milo Bail Student Center Fireplace Lounge following the banquet, ending at midnight.

Tickets for the banquet cost \$10 for students, \$12 for children under eight and \$25 for the general public. Tickets can be purchased in the Milo Bail Student Center Business Office.

For more information about these events, contact Erin Cron at 554-2711.

Peace Corps Week set for Feb. 26

In conjunction with the International Culture Fair, UNO will also be celebrating Peace Corps Week Feb. 26 through March 2. Peace Corps recruiting officers and returning volunteers will be on hand to speak with students during the International Cultural Fair on Wednesday, Feb. 28, and Thursday, March 1, in the Milo Bail Student Center Ballroom and Nebraska Room from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"Celebrating Peace Corps Week during ... international week works well because we're all about exploring other cultures," said English-as-a-second-language instructor Anne West-Leclou.

For more information about the Peace Corps, contact the International Programs Office at 554-2293.

History conference holds receptions, public lecture

To celebrate its 50th anniversary, the Missouri Valley History Conference will hold two receptions this week, hosted by the UNO History Department.

The first will be on Wednesday, Feb. 28, at 7 p.m. on the Executive Level of the First National Tower in downtown Omaha. It will feature First National Bank's private collection of Western art. Pre-registration for the private event is required. For more information or to register, contact Moshe Gershovich at 554-3175 or at

mgershovich@mail.unomaha.edu.

The second will be on Friday, March 2, at 7 p.m. at the W.H. Thompson Alumni Center. Interim Chancellor John Christensen is sponsoring the event, which will feature memories of the 50 years of conference history from veteran attendees.

There will also be a lecture entitled "John Wesley Powell and his 1869 Exploration of the Grand Canyon" on Thursday, March 1, at 8 p.m. at the Embassy Suites, located at 555 S. 10th St. The lecture is free and open to the public.

'Seven Days of Service' provides spring break opportunity

The program "Seven Days of Service" is an opportunity for UNO students to refurbish and renovate homes for low-income families. This program runs during spring break, March 10 to 17, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily. Interested students can sign up for this program at the Eppley Administration Building Information Desk or Arts and Sciences Hall Room 220.

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Making the grade: The ABC's of UNO's student teaching program

STEPHENIE CONLEY
STAFF WRITER

Some fear it. Most eagerly anticipate it. All wait years to do it.

For students in the College of Education, "it" is the final chapter of their undergraduate careers – student teaching. Throughout the undergraduate teacher education world, rumors fly about what happens to those who enter "the student teaching abyss." Students seen and heard only the semester before mysteriously disappear before graduation.

They haven't really disappeared, though. They are on the education frontlines applying their knowledge in a genuine classroom setting. With theory behind them, student teachers face the real deal: Metro-area elementary and high school students.

The student teaching program gives the teacher candidate hands-on teaching experience. Student teachers are assigned to a school where they work under direct supervision of experienced teachers.

"Student teaching is the capstone experience for students enrolled in teacher preparation programs. College of Education students are able to apply what they have learned ... during this full-day, full-semester experience," according to the College of Education's Web site.

Student teachers plan, teach and manage a classroom just as a regular teacher would. The difference is that as students, they receive feedback, support and guidance from their cooperating teachers and university supervisor.

One such cooperating teacher is Jerred

Zegelis. Zegelis has taught journalism and digital photography at Benson High School for the past five years. He has been a cooperating teacher for the last three. As a cooperating teacher, Zegelis focuses on the independence of the student teacher.

"I think it's my job not to tell the student teacher how to teach – simply because they find their own style of teaching with time," Zegelis said. "It's definitely not my job to tell them what is the right or wrong way to teach, but I can be there to advise, guide and assist."

Zegelis explained that student teachers often expect to be great at teaching right away, but end up finding the road challenging. Dreams of making a difference and inspiring student achievement clash with reality.

"A reality in a world where some of your students are so tired they can barely stay awake in your classroom because they worked until midnight the night before trying to pay for their child's food," Zegelis said.

As they gain experience, student

teachers find they become better at the job. Zegelis said he is inspired by the energy and conviction in his student teachers. "They have small successes with individual students," he said. "[They] see how important and amazing teaching can be."

UNO senior Johanna Aulner began the student teaching program in January. She is currently teaching high school biology and English for sophomores, juniors and seniors at Bellevue West High School.

"I was extremely nervous when I first started. However, that has faded, and I am fully confident of my teaching abilities," Aulner said.

A typical day for Aulner lasts from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. She begins by organizing her classroom, making sure copies and books are available, and writing the tasks for the day on the board. She then hands back

graded papers, takes attendance and passes out materials. During this time she tries to focus students on the upcoming lesson by asking them thought-provoking questions.

Her English classes involve reading and discussion, while her biology classes

involve lab, lecture and group activities.

"Once the students start coming through the door, the day flies by," Aulner said.

One of the biggest challenges all teachers face is student motivation, and it isn't any different for Aulner.

"It is hard to call on students who are not interested or do not understand," Aulner said. "It is too easy to call on students who volunteer their ideas and answers. I am starting new ways in which I can involve all of my students."

Despite the challenges, Aulner feels well-prepared for teaching. But, there is one thing she wished the College of Education would have better prepared her for: grading papers.

"It takes a lot of time to grade papers, especially English papers," Aulner said. "Just when you think you are caught up, another paper will come in from a student that was absent a week ago. It never ends."

Even though her days are sometimes hectic, Aulner believes teaching is an excellent fit for her. She enjoys being with students and finds teaching to be an energizing profession.

"I think I was blessed with the most well-behaved students ever," Aulner said. "They are entertaining, enlightening and very talented young individuals."

For Aulner, teaching is more than a profession. It is about making a difference.

"It is an amazing feeling when you have an impact on a student," she said.

"Whether they fully understand the material, find deeper meaning in a work or turn to you for help; knowing you had an impact is very rewarding."

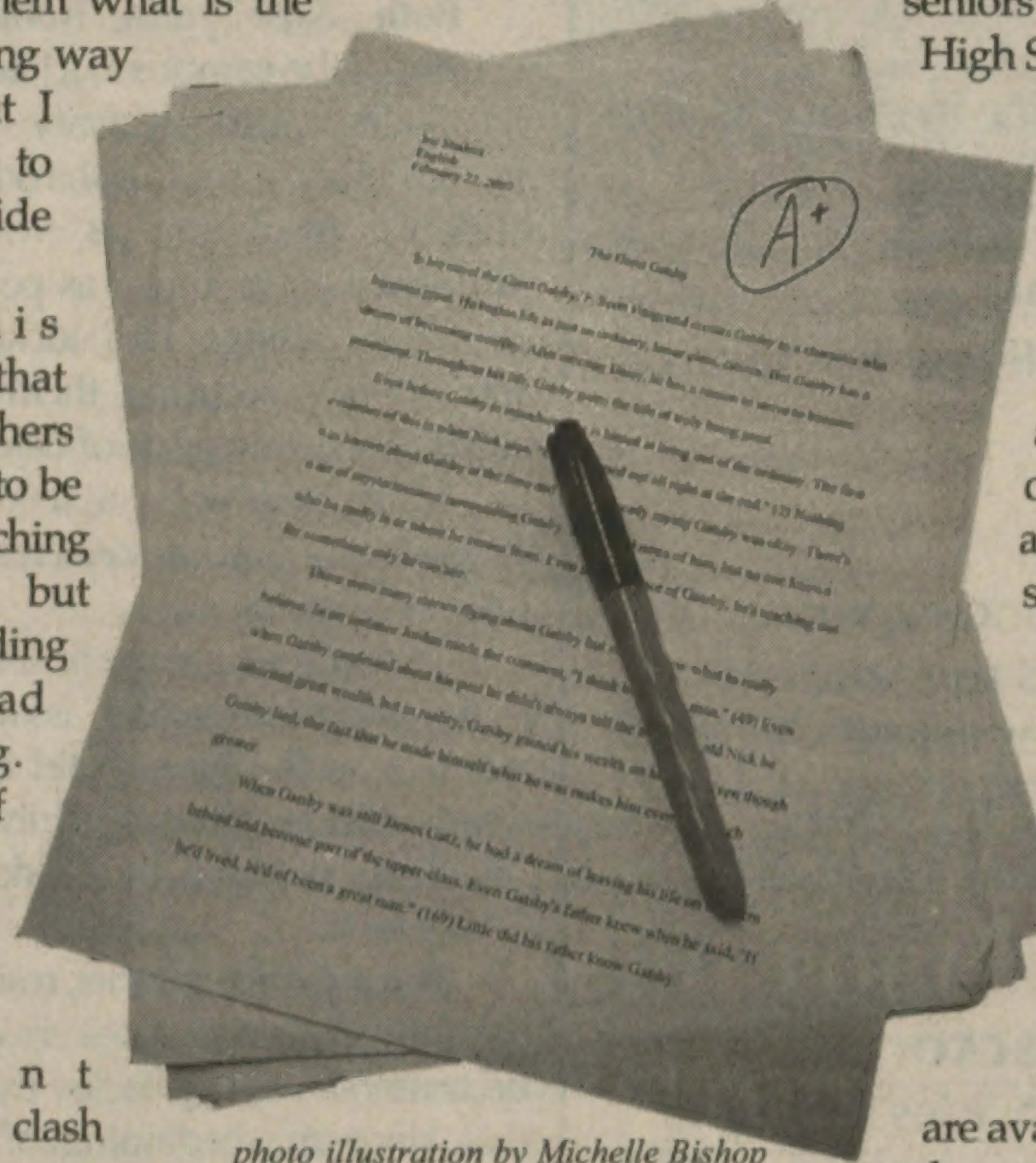


photo illustration by Michelle Bishop

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Student Government Open Positions

Legislative & Public Relations Officer (LPR)

The LPR acts as the liaison between the University of Nebraska Board of Regents, the State Legislature, Omaha City Council and other governmental agencies. The LPR in addition to its legislative duties promotes the University Student Government to the student body, coordinates the student elections advertising process, appoints the Election Commission members and completes any other activities requested by all branches of the University Student Government. **Deadline is March 5, at noon.**

Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)

The CAO maintains the Student Government office in every aspect, chairs the Inter Agency Council and Executive Council, appoints students to the four Student Government Agencies and proposes the Student Government annual budget. The CAO must attend a meeting every Thursday at 7 p.m. and complete five office hours a week.

Executive Treasurer

The Executive Treasure maintains the revenues and expenses of the entire University Student Government, chairs the Student Activities Budget Committee (SABC) and provides reports to the Senate and Executive Council when necessary. The Executive Treasurer must attend a meeting every Thursday at 7 p.m. and complete five office hours a week.

American Multicultural Students Director

The American Multicultural Students Agency provides support, assistance and guidance to multicultural students attending UNO by providing programs and events designed to increase awareness about various cultures. Speakers, forums and photographic exhibits are just a few of the programs coordinated though AMS.

International Student Services Director

The International Student Services Agency works with international students to foster a smooth transition in to a new environment. Members if the ISS board promote international cultural exchange and awareness on campus through a variety of programs. ISS also sponsors an annual Cultural Festival and International Student Banquet.

Network for disAbled Students Director

The primary mission of the Network for disAbled Students Agency is to provide services at UNO to students with disabilities. These services include a library of multimedia materials for research and educational usage as well as specialized equipment. NDS is an advocate and referral service regarding disability issues and also provides programs that promote awareness about the diverse issues concerning those who are disAbled.

Woman's Resource Center Director

The Women's Resource Center offers a wide variety of gender and sexual orientation-centered services and programs. The center sponsors special events and programs and houses a library of books, periodicals and publications on a broad range of issues. WRC is also a referral agent for counseling agencies, childcare, and community groups concerned with gender and sexual orientation-centered specific topics.

Deadline is March 29 for all positions except LPR.



Applications are available on the Student Government website at <http://sguno.unomaha.edu> and in our office located on the 1st floor of the Milo Bail Student Center. Please stop by or call 554-2620 with any questions.

The University of Nebraska at Omaha is an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution. For special needs or accommodations, please let us know by calling 554-2620 (TTY 554-3799).

From ASSAULTS: Page 1

identified in the police report.

Calls made to Sgt. Teresa Negron, Omaha Police Department public information officer, regarding these assaults were not immediately returned.

After the most recent report, flyers with safety information were distributed to the University Village, said Kosel.

"We really have no control over any of these things because we're not the victims," said Kosel. "We try to kind-of get the word out to people, we do what we can."

The tips, both in the flyer and echoed by Kosel, included locking doors, not walking alone at night and reporting suspicious behavior immediately.

Both Kosel and Robinson agreed security of the campus is a joint effort.

"Safety and security is a shared responsibility," said Robinson. "Certainly students need to be aware of their surroundings, as much as possible because ultimately things like locking windows and doors - securing themselves - that's ultimately the first line of defense."

Most residents agreed with these statements, citing personal responsibility for their own safety.

"Now that we've heard about all of those stories of sexual assaults, we don't want to walk alone," said freshman Kate Evans and resident of University Village. "Walking at night, in the dark, is kind of freaky now."

During cold weather, residents said, the car and pedestrian gates are often left open because of freezing locks. Evans estimated that since the beginning of the semester, the pedestrian security gate had been open "probably 75 percent of the time."

Junior Kjetil Espelid agreed, saying "it hasn't really been closed that much."

But other residents were not sure having a gate, open or not, contributed to their security.

"The gate that you walk in, even if you don't know the numbers, sometimes it didn't work for me, so I just climbed on up and jumped over," said freshman Erica Niemeyer. "There's some scary things about it too, but we're all going to live on our own sometime so we got to get used to it."

Espelid said an open gate was "OK, because then I don't have to push the code to open it."

"I don't think it's a security threat when it's open," he said.

Robinson said his office had not received any requests from students regarding the gates. University Village and its gates are

owned and operated by Century Housing Management. Robinson said his office has "significant" involvement with the management company.

"When we meet with the management staff, they'll bring forward concerns. If maintenance and function of the gates is an issue, then we'll deal with it," said Robinson. "If there's something mechanically at issue, weather or snow, where they wouldn't open for a student or something, then there would be other options. It's only something that's along those lines that it would not be closed all of the time."

Robinson said the university had examined each sexual assault report in order to evaluate the safety of its campus.

"Any incident of sexual assault is a concern to the administration. Things that happen in society in general will occur on our campus," said Robinson. "The best thing we can do is make people aware of how to protect themselves, how to report incidents and do what we can to make things as safe as possible."

Kosel said keeping the gates open does not help maintain safety.

"It makes it easier to get to [the dorms]," said Kosel. "If there's no fence around it, you can just walk right in. It certainly makes it easier for people to get to your residence hall."

The increased reports of sexual assaults have made Campus Security more aware and watchful, but there are no plans to immediately increase patrols or number of officers available, said Kosel.

"I've got no more people to add on. I've got all the officers I'm going to get," he said.

With plans to construct additional dormitories on the north campus, Kosel said he would be requesting additional staff. Campus Security's current staff allows for four or five security officers to patrol the campus each night.

"If somebody wants to take and double my security force, would that provide better security on campus? Certainly," said Kosel. "The more people we have out here, at least my staff out there wandering around, the better off we're going to be. The problem is who's going to give me the money for that salary."

Editor's note: Gateway policy is to withhold names and graphic details from published reports of sexual assaults and similar crimes. Although that information was included in the public records we obtained, it was withheld to protect the victims' right to privacy.

From SALARIES: Page 1

to catch up to their peer group.

"We may not get those kinds of dollars, so we [will] at least try to maintain the rate we give all faculty," Wimes said.

The determination of UNL and UNMC salary increases will take both the UNO and UNK rates as well as Board of Regents guidelines into consideration, Wimes said. The decision will also have an impact on non-faculty staff salary increases.

"We traditionally try to follow the same increase level for faculty and staff," Wimes said. "We try to use it as a general benchmark."

Wimes went on to say if the state budget increases for the university stays at its current level, the impact of the faculty salary increase "will be significant." He said the university had offered the faculty a 3.5 percent raise and "thought that was very reasonable."

According to the university statement, the current recommendation from the Nebraska Legislature's Appropriations Committee would only fund a 2 percent salary increase for NU faculty and staff. Wimes said their recommendation would need to be increased an additional 2.6 percent to a total of 4.6 percent to fully fund the

faculty salary increase.

Acting Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs Sheri Rogers echoed Wimes concerns in a statement she released Friday.

"We are cognizant of the potential budgetary difficulties associated with the current recommendation from the Legislature's Appropriations Committee and the salary order from the Special Master, Dr. Peter Feuille," she said. "UNO is examining possible solutions to this situation, though given the budget cuts of recent years, finding such will not be easy. Our focus continues to be on our students and their academic success."

As of Friday afternoon, many UNO faculty members were not yet aware of the increase, but Sharon Sobel, an associate professor and the chairperson of theatre, was pleased with the decision.

"I'm happy we're getting an increase because we deserve it," she said.

First-year Assistant Professor of English Kristin Gerten agreed with Sobel.

"I'm very happy with it," she said. "The union has done a great job. I'm excited to be a member."

From stress to success: Quick tips for fighting, reducing anxiety

ANJANE GILES
STAFF WRITER

Numerous stories have been written on stress. It doesn't take a genius to figure out how or why stress occurs.

But what some students may not be aware of is the many problems stress can lead to and the time and money that could be saved by doing a few simple things to avoid excessive stress.

Marcia Adler, coordinator of Student Health Services, said the top five diagnoses for students who visit the health services office are related to their lifestyles. Universally, about 60 percent of doctor visits are due to problems provoked by stress, she said. Adler also said that headaches, back pains, sore throats and stomach aches are common reasons students visit the health services office – and each one can be related to stress.

According to The American Institute of Stress, the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work reported that more than half of the 550 million working days lost each year in the U.S. are due to stress-related absenteeism.

Stress also plays a huge role in physical health, according to the American Institute of Stress (AIS) Web site, stress.org. Increased heart rate, rising blood pressure and blood sugar, as well as blood clots can occur under extreme amounts of stress. These things can also lead to what the AIS calls "diseases of civilization," or problems such as hypertension, ulcers and lower back pain.

According to BlueCross BlueShield of Nebraska, disabling stress has doubled over the last six years, and the workplace is one of the major provocations of stress and anxiety.

Of course, work is not always the source of stress for students. Some students find work relaxing compared to the heavy homework load they acquire throughout the week.

Full-time UNO student Barbara Cox is relieved to be at her job after a long day of classes. Cox co-owns a pet grooming business called Posh Pets in Council Bluffs and said that going to work is like a break.

Cox said even though she is not married and does not have children, there is still home stress. It's hard to find time to keep up on basic home needs. A social life and participation in hobbies are also difficult for Cox when she is trying to accomplish everything else.

"I have to let things go sometimes," Cox said. "I have to study."

Fortunately, Cox said she is able to work by appointment and change her hours when she wants to because she owns her own shop.

Cox said she meditates, prays and tries to get more sleep when she becomes overwhelmingly stressed. "I have little time to do much else," she said.

Resources are available for students who are dealing with heavy stress loads and methods for preventing certain physical ailments.

Under the supervision of a professor, counseling majors offer free community counseling in Kayser Hall. Licensed mental health therapists also offer free counseling for students in Room 115 of the Eppley Administration Building.

Corrine Marinovic teaches the course Stress Management in the HPER building, which focuses on health-related aspects of stress. She said one of the important things her students do in her class is keep a stress journal. The journal helps the students identify the main sources of their stress on a weekly basis and how they respond emotionally and physically.

Marinovic said the goal of the class is not to eliminate stress, but to find an optimum amount of stress that will allow students to achieve their most important goals without causing illness or stress-related impairments. She said most of her students give positive feedback about the



Drinks and candy loaded with caffeine and sugar escalate the nervous system, providing only a temporary fix for energy.

photo illustration by Patrick Doty

class.

"Almost everyone likes the relaxation exercises," Marinovic said. Most days of the week, the class practices breathing, meditation, visualizations, autogenics and progressive muscle relation.

Marinovic said her main advice to students is to avoid procrastination, manage time more efficiently and learn better communication skills so that situations will be resolved to their satisfaction.

Another stress-relieving option is exercise. Regular exercise boosts energy levels, produces a "relaxation response" in the body and fights fatigue, according to WebMD.com. Contrastingly, energy drinks, Pop Rocks and large amounts of coffee escalate the nervous system and provide only a temporary fix for energy.

"I tell students to try ... exercising regularly, even if it just a walk on campus," Adler said. "Students should try it for a few weeks and see if they notice a difference."

the morning...

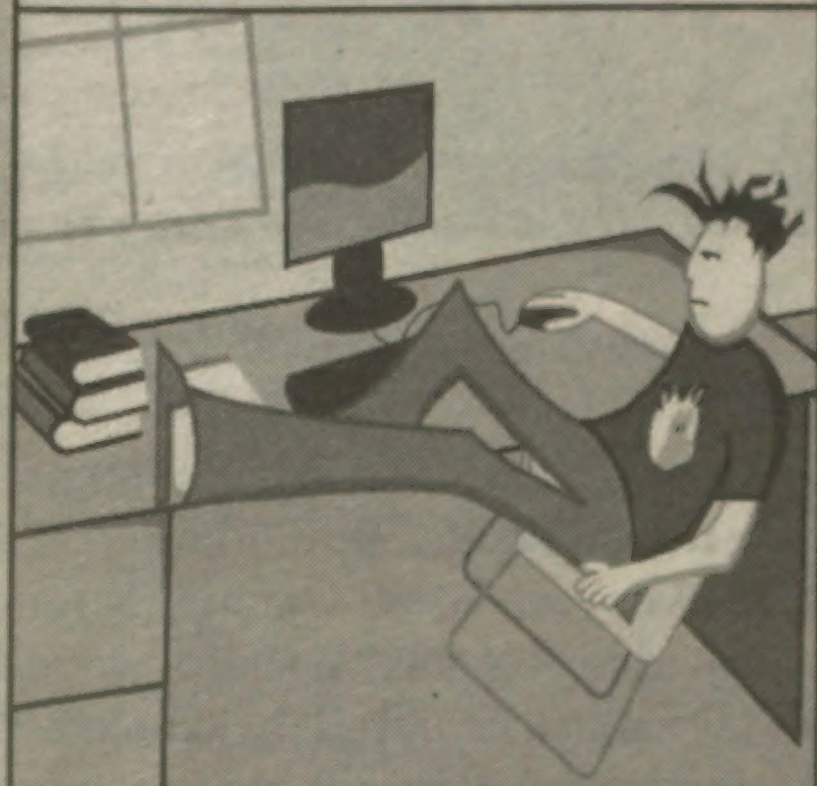
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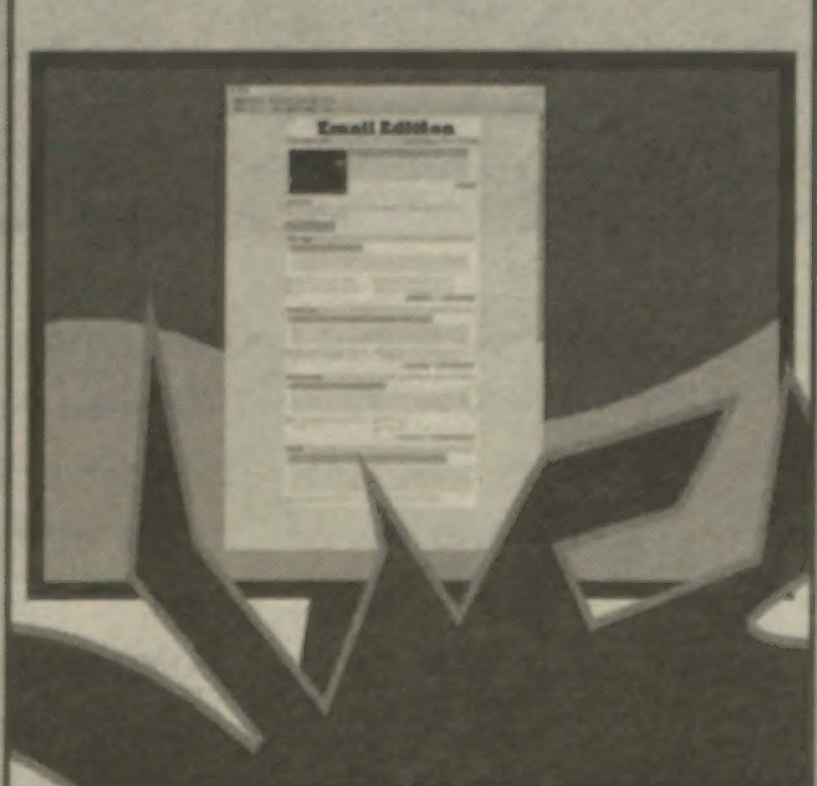
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Page 6

Michael McManus | Arts & Leisure Editor

Goo Goo Dolls let flurries of snow, screaming fans in Orpheum Theater

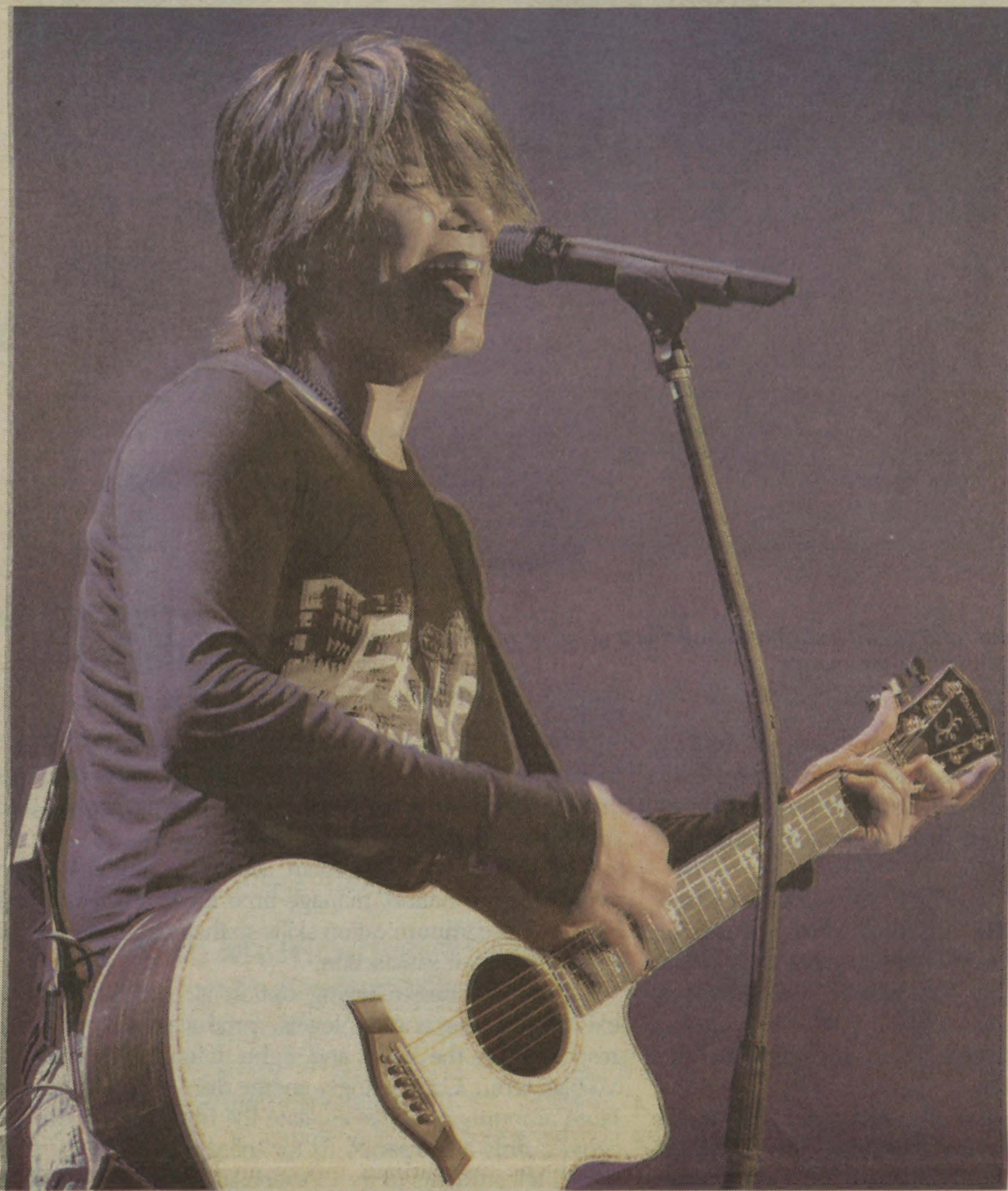


photo by Patrick Doty

Johnny Rzeznik and the Goo Goo Dolls performed in front of a sold-out crowd Saturday night at the Orpheum, despite snow-filled Omaha streets. The concert marked the 14th stop on their national tour.

REVIEW BY
MICHAEL MCMANUS
A&L EDITOR

It snowed, but the people still came. Lots of people.

The blizzard-like conditions didn't put a halt to the Goo Goo Dolls concert at the Orpheum Theater last Saturday, and it didn't keep anyone at home either.

The sold-out show in Omaha marked the 14th stop on their national tour promoting their new album *Let Love In*. The concert was a part of Q 98.5's Big Gig concert series. New alternative rock band Augustana joined them. Combined, the two bands left an intense mark at the Orpheum.

Augustana kicked off the concert right on time. The audience was pumped - actually, they were crazed - I suppose you could say they were somewhat of a crazy, pumped audience.

The normal high school crowd was in attendance with their deafening screams. A mixed crowd of college-aged to middle-aged individuals added to the noise with the occasional "I love Augustana."

Augustana rocked it. It was apparent that not everyone at the concert was familiar with most of their songs. But if the reaction they got when they sang the hit single "Boston" proved anything, it was obvious there were a few serious fans in attendance.

According to lead singer Dan Layus, he knew his fans were there, even if there were only a few.

"I know there are 16 of you out

there who have our CD," he said. "A very valuable 16."

Perhaps the highlight of Augustana's lineup was a song that was not on the album called "Either Way I'll Break Your Heart Someday." Layus said he wrote it when he was wasted on his apartment roof top, bottle of Jameson in hand. "Thank God I didn't fall off the roof," he added.

Augustana held the stage for about 30 minutes and thoroughly impressed the audience. They ended by saying it was time to leave, but then added that since the snowstorm was so bad, nobody was getting home tonight. I don't think anyone would have minded a delayed exit from the concert.

Following a 30-minute intermission, the Goo Goo Dolls took the stage. If you thought the deafening screams of the young girls were intense during Augustana, you should have heard the screams coming out of the middle-aged women when the Dolls hit the stage. My ears are still ringing.

The show started with blinding strobe lights flashing to the sound of drums. Then the lights turned on and in front of blood red drapes stood the Goo Goo Dolls. The audience went insane.

The band opened with one of the songs off their new album, and lead singer Johnny Rzeznik yelled, "This is gonna be a good one tonight, I can tell."

The Goo Goo Dolls were all over the stage, making it quite apparent that they have been doing this for a while. More than 20 years to be exact.

"Slide" and "Iris" were obviously

See **GOO GOO DOLLS:** Page 8

Christina Aguilera brings Omaha *Back to Basics* with Qwest concert

REVIEW BY
SANEL SELIMOVIC
STAFF WRITER

Curtains rise to reveal a projection screen of a woman sitting seductively in a chair, lifting her left leg up high. The screen begins to withdraw, and the familiar legs I have come to know so intimately through various magazines, DVDs and other media come into view. A little higher and I can see the whole body now. She is dressed in white, her back turned to the audience. A wave of screams rises from every corner of the arena. They are quickly shattered by her voice as she utters "Heyyyyyyy! Do your thing, honey!"

Grammy-award winning musician Christina Aguilera made her third stop in a 41-city North American tour at the Qwest Center last Friday, kicking off her *Back to Basics* tour promoting her latest album.

She started the show with her jazzy, old 20s-style single "Ain't No Other Man." She was surprisingly overdressed compared to the outfits she wore during her *Stripped* tour several years ago. All eight of her dancers, four male and four female, wore matching white suits for a very classy and clean look.

Most of the songs came from the *Back to Basics* album; however, there were several good renditions of past singles such as "What a Girl Wants," "Dirty," "Lady Marmalade," "Beautiful" and "Fighter." Despite being in the eighth row, it was clear that the majority of attendees had not heard most of her new songs as attested by their lack of singing and enjoyment in songs besides her Top 10 singles.

Aguilera did the obligatory "Hello, Omaha," and "So happy to be here," but she added "We have some surprises for you tonight." I didn't think much of the surprises until they happened. Four of her male dancers, dressed as sailors, came down off stage and into the audience and selected a random person to participate in a song called "Nasty, Naughty Boy." Unfortunately,

it wasn't me, but instead the editor of the Arts and Leisure section of the *Gateway*, Michael McManus.

The four men took him onto a stage and tied him up to a large swirling circle at the center of the stage for Aguilera's pleasure. The audience went insane at this point. As she went up to him, she asked, "Is your name nasty boy?" To which he responded, "Michael." After some whipping, and countless sexual innuendos by Aguilera and four female dancers, she finally released him.

The opening artists for Aguilera were Danity Kane and The Pussycat Dolls. In fact, the only thing differentiating The Pussycat Dolls and Danity Kane from the Iowa Playhouse is the lack of a pole at the center of the stage. The Playhouse has the pole, not the concert. Yes, Aguilera is sexy and does some dirty things in her show, but it is often not blatant smut. There is a difference between teasing fans and staying apart from that lifestyle versus lack of any character.

However, they are singers so they should not be judged by their character but rather by their ability to sing. Their obvious lack of that ability means that neither of the two opening bands had anything to offer.

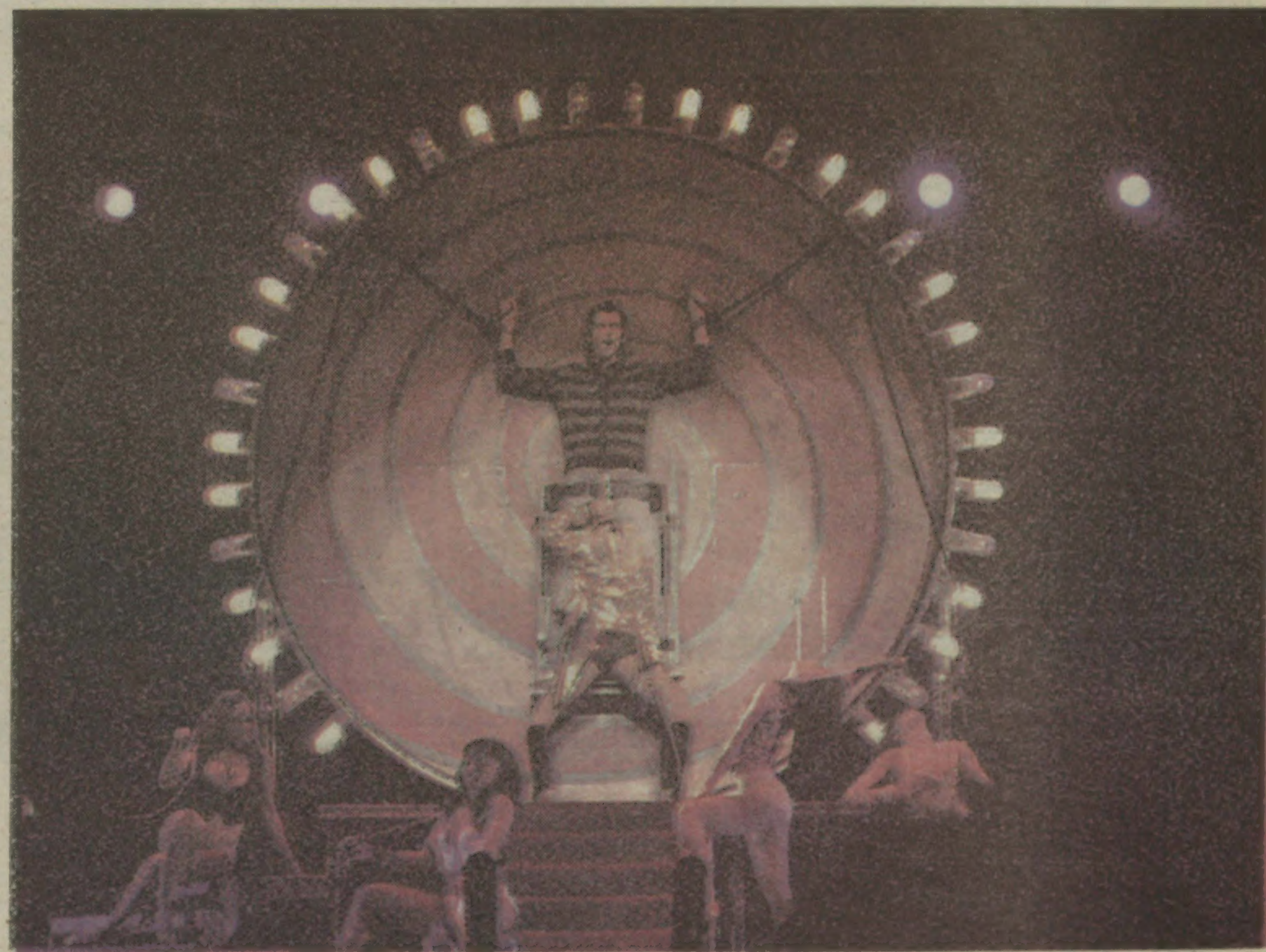


photo by Sanel Selimovic

Michael McManus, Arts and Leisure Editor of the *Gateway*, was selected to be teased and seduced by Aguilera and her scantily-clad back-up dancers.

Overall, Aguilera's show was outstanding. There were about six costume changes throughout the show, but it never felt like you were waiting because of entertainment provided by her backup dancers, a talented band and vocalists. I enjoyed the whole jazz and blues style that is sprinkled throughout her new album and permeates the live performance.

Aguilera won a 2007 Grammy for Best Female Vocal Pop Performance for her single "Ain't No Other Man." She will be performing in St. Paul and Chicago on March 19 and April 21 respectively.

African Unity Night, white boys, hustlers add to wonder of Omaha

On The Beat



Brent Crampton

I hope. I write this article on the eve of the event, so as you read this, the event has already transpired. Thus my plan is to write an appropriate review article on the event. But for now, I will say that I'm pleased to see these sorts of events happening in association with UNO lately. Either I haven't been paying attention for the past five years of my collegiate career or my recent surging activity on facebook.com has shown me a whole new campus-wide world of cultured happenings.

For example, the Cultural Awareness Program just had DJ Rekha from NYC laying down the booty bhangra beats. And now, PASO has delegated local DJ Maestro to couple South African coupe de ville rhythms with contemporary hip hop. I might be the only white guy at the party, but my plan is to bring my short, cute Latina girlfriend along. I'm sure the eyes will quickly divert away from the tall, lanky, white kid.

In other news, since my investigative report on club Nico took place, I must say that I've deliberately avoided the establishment. Not so much avoided, more like, I just didn't have a reason to go out there. But as the owner Ralph Marasco has taken over more of a handle on the club, it seems there's been

somewhat of resurgence. It's particularly interesting that I would know such a thing, considering that I don't frequent the clubbing cornerstone, but when I woke one morning (or as you could say, early afternoon) to Nico event coordinator Dianne Janeck's voice on the other line, I heard a peculiar utterance.

I won't make any attempt to do a direct quote, as I wasn't in the right state of mind at the time, but it was something along the lines of "Last night [expletive deleted] blew my mind. That was the best DJ we've ever had at Nico."

And actually, hearing something like that isn't all that out-of-the-ordinary in a normal situation. But if you know anything about Janeck, you know that for her to make a statement akin to that, Moses must have seen another burning bush. And at that, my red-hot seat is burning to see this myth of a man she speaks of. He goes by the name of Scotty Boy, and he's a self-proclaimed hustler from Las Vegas.

No, not a gambler of sorts, but he does gamble with women's hearts via various DJ booths in Las Vegas and throughout his travels in America. With a direct compound of rock, funk, electro-banging house beats and solid mash-up mixes, he's able to cover a tapestry of various pop-cultural conundrums through dance beats, clever remixes and smooth mixes on the fly.

In fact, Nico dug him so much that if you check out his MySpace.com page (myspace.com/djscottyboy), you'll see that he's booked to play at Nico on March 9, April 6 and again on April 27.

That's definitely a happy-go-lucky booking spree. I hope it was two-for-ones or something. Either way, as per high recommendation, I'm taking a night off in the future to check out his musical workings. I suggest you do the same.



photo by Tim Fitzgerald

Danielle Smith, center, stars as Barbara in the production *Nickel and Dimed*. Joe Koll, left, plays Phillip and Charlene J. B. Willoughby plays Melissa.

UNO Production of *Nickel and Dimed* worth every penny spent

REVIEW BY
SCOTT STEWART
NEWS EDITOR

It's not everyday that you see a play based on a work of nonfiction, but this isn't just any play.

The UNO production of *Nickel and Dimed* opened Thursday night with a preview show to a half-full theatre of roughly 55 people. By intermission, the audience was abuzz with talk about minimum wage, the working poor and the human condition in general.

The play is based on a work of investigative journalism by Barbara Ehrenreich of the same title, for which Ehrenreich really went through the experiences depicted in the show. It was adapted to the stage by Joan Holden,

who was the principle playwright for the Tony Award-winning San Francisco Mime Troupe from 1967 to 2000.

The play opens with a comedic flashback, showing a naïve Barbara, played by graduate student Danielle Smith, at her first day of work as a waitress. A few sent-back orders, angry coworkers and spilled food later, we learn that Barbara is in fact a reporter for *Harper's* magazine on assignment to find out what life is like for American's working class.

Perhaps one of the most telling lines of the play comes in the next scene, as Barbara mocks an electronic testing

See **NICKEL AND DIMED:**
Page 12

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Monologues bring vaginas, domestic abuse conversation to center stage

KATIE ZABROCKI
STAFF WRITER

The Vagina Monologues, presented by the UNO Women's Resource Center, is a play that provides an intimate look at women and their intimate parts. From menstruation and childbirth to female genital mutilation and domestic abuse, the production's goal is to break the silence on issues of violence against women and, of course, talk about vaginas.

This is UNO's second annual benefit performance of *The Vagina Monologues* and the director for both years was UNO alumna Sonali Kumar.

"Vaginas should be creative and thriving, not places of violence," said Kumar. "Women's sexuality should be celebrated and protected."

Kumar was passionate about the show and the cause.

"This is an opportunity for women to have a theatre experience together, and it's so fun," she said.

V-Day is the campaign that *The Vagina Monologues* supports. It is a movement that promotes awareness, raises money and generates broader attention for the fight to stop violence against women. The 'V' in V-Day stands for Victory, Valentine and Vagina.

This year, over 1,150 communities worldwide are hosting V-Day benefits to put an end to violence against women through fundraising and awareness. Over \$4 million was raised through performances of *The Vagina Monologues* last year, according to vday.org.

The UNO production that ran from Feb. 22-24 had free admission, but encouraged donations with all proceeds going to Omaha's Sienna Francis House, the region's largest homeless shelter and addiction recovery program. In 2006, the Sienna

Francis House served 330,000 meals and provided 132,000 nights of shelter, and also provided a safe place for women being abused or experiencing violence, according to siennafrancis.org.

The Vagina Monologues discusses a range of topics about women and includes a strong emphasis on women's sexuality. Short skirts, triple orgasms and the search for the clitoris share the stage with thongs, tampons and masturbation.

Of the nearly 20 monologues performed, three specifically highlight violence that has occurred against women. The Japanese "comfort women" who were made into sex slaves during WWII and the millions of women in Africa who are having their genitals mutilated provide a sobering contrast to the humor of some of the other monologues.

"The longer we worked on it, the more connected you feel," said Natalie Turner, a UNO student and one of the performers. "I didn't feel that close to my piece at first, but the more I did it, the more I felt connected," she said of one of her monologues, the Crooked Braid, which highlights domestic abuse on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

Though the monologues were more than just an excuse to talk about vaginas, posters around campus from a non-UNO group, the Clare Booth Luce Policy Institute, have encouraged students to boycott the monologues. Their stance is that the monologues glorify social deviancy and sexual perversion. They feel that the monologues reduce women to their sexual organs.

For more information on *The Vagina Monologues* and the V-Day movement, see vday.org.

From *GOO GOO DOLLS*: Page 6



photo by Patrick Doty

With high-tech lighting and an attractive backdrop, the Goo Goo Dolls played in front of a full-house Saturday night at the Orpheum.

some of the fan favorites as the audience sang every word. During "Iris" a pair of lacy panties were even thrown on stage to show approval and excitement over the song.

Overall, the concert was impressive. The beautiful Orpheum setting, the

alternative bands and hip crowd made for an enjoyable night.

I would keep an eye on Augustana. The Goo Goo Dolls may have more experience under their belts, but I personally think that Augustana proved to be the true stars of the night.



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Records fall as track team claims first NCC indoor title in 26 years



photo by Jason Glenn

Junior Karin Clarkson draws a bead on sophomore teammate Pinar Saka in the NCC 200-meter finals.

JASON GLENN
SPORTS EDITOR

This drought ended with a dunking.

After a 26-year hiatus from the top of the podium, the UNO track team celebrated the school's second North Central Conference indoor championship Saturday at the DakotaDome in Vermillion, S.D. with a time-honored tradition -- throwing their coach in the pool.

A still-soggy Coach Steve Smith said afterwards the best part of winning a conference title in his first year at the helm was the looks on his athletes' face.

"I'm really happy those girls got to experience a championship," he said. "I mean, it's my first one as a head coach, but I've been a part of a lot of them and you can just tell they're tickled pink. They're calling their moms and their dads and their grandmas and their boyfriends, and they're just happy."

Standing in third place after Friday's opening competition, the Mavericks catapulted into the lead midway through Saturday's events, overtaking a strong Minnesota State University Mankato team and defending champ South Dakota to run away with the crown.

UNO finished with 162.5 points, followed by Mankato at 134, North Dakota 124.5, South Dakota 121.5, Augustana 75, Minnesota Duluth 70.5 and St. Cloud State at 51.

Sophomore Molly Belling led the Mavs with record-setting wins in the 60-meter and 200-meter dashes. Belling's winning time of 7.56 seconds in the 60 bettered teammate LaVerne Monger's 2006 NCC championship mark of 7.64 and her 200 time of 24.38 established a new DakotaDome all-time best.

Still, Belling said her main goal wasn't necessarily to win, it was to move her team up in the standings.

"I didn't really care who got what as long as we got points," she said. "I was

not expecting everything that happened today, not at all. This was like two times as much as I expected."

Belling wasn't the Mavs' only outstanding performer, though; many others on the team chose the occasion to raise their game.

Senior Angela Kampschnieder continued to topple records in the 500-meter dash, winning the event in a Dome-best 1:15.32, and junior Karin Clarkson improved on her 2006 second-place finish in the 400, edging teammate Pinar Saka at the tape to capture the 2007 crown in 57.09.

In one of the meet's gutsiest performances, senior LaCheryl Prince overcame a hamstring injury to grab the triple jump title with a mark of 38 feet, one-quarter inch.

After four years on the UNO women's basketball team, Prince said the individual recognition was nice but the overall championship was what really

See **TRACK:** Page 12

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photo by Jason Glenn

Sophomore Molly Belling celebrates the Mavericks 2007 NCC title from the DakotaDome stands. Belling set a conference championship meet record in the 60-meter dash.



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Minnesota not so nice to women's Hockey team closes out regular season with rare Alaska sweep

JASON GLENN
SPORTS EDITOR

Though the North Star State is famous for the hospitality of its residents, you wouldn't know it from the way they treated the UNO women's basketball team.

The Mavericks received a less-than-gracious welcome, suffering a pair of 14-point road losses to the University of Minnesota Duluth and Minnesota State University, Mankato in their final regular season games.

The losses drop the Mavs to 15-11 overall and 3-9 in the North Central Conference and mean they will face No. 2 Augustana in the first round of the NCC post-season tournament Wednesday night in Sioux Falls, S.D.

Poor shooting again plagued the Mavs Thursday night in Duluth, as the team managed to shoot only 34.5 percent from the field for the game.

Senior Ashley Freerksen gave the Mavericks the lead with five straight

points to open the contest. But it wasn't long before the Bulldog attack took over, reclaimed the advantage for good and ran to a 78-64 win.

Senior Karen Thies led UNO with 18 points, and Freerksen was the team's top rebounder with 10 boards.

Saturday night didn't get much better.

Seeking to avenge a 102-80 loss to UNO two weeks ago, Mankato came out hot, built an early lead and never relinquished it on their way to a 90-76 victory.

The Mavs did manage to cut the MSU lead to 46-40 with 17:23 to play, but were stymied over the following two-and-a-half minutes to lose their momentum.

They made one last run later in the half, trimming the score to 56-50, but Mankato responded with a 10-0 outburst that sealed UNO's fate.

Freshman guard Alyssa Green led UNO with a career-high 21 points and four assists, and Thies added 17 points and nine rebounds.

Going into Thursday night's game against Duluth, the Mavericks still had a ray of hope for a first round conference playoff game at home. A tight battle ensued in the first half and ended with the Mavericks holding a two-point edge.

Coming out with purpose in the second, UNO rattled off a 15-6 run to take an 11-point lead. This contest featured sharp shooting by the Mavericks, desperately trying to outweigh a

See **MEN'S B-BALL**: Page 12

JASON GLENN
SPORTS EDITOR

The UNO hockey team picked a good time to rack up their first Alaska sweep.

With first-round conference match-ups on the line, the Mavericks made the long journey north and notched a huge four-point weekend with a pair of victories over the University of Alaska-Fairbanks.

With the wins, and a little help from Michigan and Lake Superior State, the Mavs clinched sole possession of fifth place in the Central Collegiate Hockey Association and set up a first-round series against bottom-dwelling Bowling Green March 2, 3 and 4, at the Qwest Center.

Coming into the weekend, UNO was locked in a battle with Western Michigan and Ohio State for the highest possible seed in the CCHA playoffs. The Mavs could have fallen as low as seventh, meaning a tougher opponent in the first round.

Instead, the Mavericks bested the Nanooks 4-3 Friday and 5-3 Saturday, and Western Michigan and Ohio State split their respective double-headers against Lake Superior and Michigan.

The Mavs' big weekend didn't start out easily, though.

After sophomore Dan Charleston got

UNO on the board early Friday night, the Nanooks charged back with three straight first period goals to take a 3-1 lead.

In the second period, freshman goaltender Jeremie Dupont tightened up the UNO net, and sophomore Tomas Klempa and junior Brandon Scero sparked the Maverick offense with goals that brought the game to a 3-3 tie.

Just over a minute into the third period, junior Bill Bagron put the Mavs ahead for good, sliding the puck past Alaska goalie Chad Johnson for the game winner. Dupont turned back 12 Nanook shots in the final frame to preserve the victory.

UNO flipped the script in Saturday's game, but still had to work hard to pull out the sweep.

Dupont continued to shutdown the Alaska offense through the first two periods as five different Mavericks hammered home goals to build a seemingly insurmountable lead heading into the third.

But, just as UNO did against Ohio State last weekend, the Nanooks found a late-game spark and rattled off three consecutive goals to make it a contest.

It was too little, too late, though, and the Mavs walked away with their first four-point weekend in a month, a crucial coda to a rollercoaster regular season.

Opening weekend road trip starts shaky, finishes strong for baseball

JASON SIBSON
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The team doctor for UNO baseball was checking pulses after the season-opening road trip, a daunting 700 miles on a bus and three double-headers in a 72-hour span.

In the first double-header, Fort Hays

State's pitching staff slapped the handcuffs on the Maverick line-up, en route to two 5-2 finishes Thursday afternoon. Junior Matt Boro and sophomore Evan Porter got the Mavericks started in game one, each batting

See **BASEBALL**: Page 12

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'Naughty boy' set straight, almost

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How Typical



Michael McManus

As the lights were shining in my eyes, I was forcefully shackled to a large bull's-eye. She looked at me, leather whip in hand,

and put her mouth near my crotch. She had one thing on her mind. She then grabbed her whip and struck the ground. Apparently I was getting what I deserved; after all, I had been a "Nasty Naughty Boy."

No, that isn't a scene from an erotic novel, nor is it a precursor to a wet dream. This is a true story: A story of punishment, whips and leather corsets. I, Mike McManus, was taken up on stage during the Christina Aguilera concert, shackled to a large bull's-eye, straddled, whipped and seduced by a very provocative and "dirty" Aguilera. Here is the story.

I received a call from a friend last week asking if I would be interested in going to the Christina Aguilera concert. I'm by no means a huge fan, but it's obvious she can sing, and the ticket was half price so I said, "what the hell."

We arrived to the concert on time, spent \$10 on two bottles of beer (I tried to get three to save me a trip back to the bar but, alas, a two-beer limit), and quickly took our seats. Danity Kane was up first. It was more like Danity Pain. I was not a huge fan. They sang a few of their songs, but I will tell you this: They were no "showstoppers."

During a brief intermission, I noticed some of my friends sitting on the ground floor. I was planning on going to get that third, and probably fourth, beer, so I decided to stop and say hello on my way.

My friends voiced their excitement over the concert with the occasional "Can you believe we are here," and an "Oh my God, we are so close." I looked up at my less-than-perfect seats in the back and smiled.

Upon finishing up my conversation with my friends, I noticed a lady waving at me. I didn't recognize her so I gave her the classic "Why are you looking at me" stare. She continued to wave me over, so I, of course, continued giving her the stare. She then walked up behind me and said, "Hey, are you a big Christina Aguilera fan?" I replied by saying "I'm down with her, why?" She then asked me if I wanted to be in the show. Say what?

Intermission was quickly coming to an end so she asked my friend and I to follow her. She then placed wristbands

on our hands and led us to a seating area right off the stage. Right off stage. Like Pussycat-Dolls'-boobs-are-10-feet-away-from-me-right off stage. It was insane.

A few minutes into the Pussycat Dolls, a very gruff man approached me. He pulled me out of the seating area and gave me the DL. He told me that I was chosen to be a part of Christina Aguilera's concert. He gave me a release of liability form to sign and ran me through what was going to happen. I was in a complete daze. All I heard was whips, leather and fireworks, and then it happened. Christina said the words. "I'm looking for a special naughty boy." Before I could run for the exit, two sweaty male dancers pulled me up onto the stage. They brought me to a large wheel, shackled me to the wheel with chains and then left me hanging. Christina then approached. "What's your name?" She said into her silver microphone. I let out a frightened "Michael."

I was petrified! I don't know what was more alarming, the fact that a woman wearing a leather corset and holding a whip was putting her mouth by my crotch or the fact that my "unit" was blown up on the big screen. Thankfully, the leather belt strapped around my waste kept everything under control.

The wheel then leaned all the way back and Christina began walking toward me. AHHH!! She put her hand on my stomach and continued calling me a nasty, naughty boy. The teasing went on for another few minutes and then it happened. Fireworks. I can't even explain how intense it was. It was like that classic Trojan condom commercial where the exploding geyser represented something more than just an exploding geyser. The fireworks went off and then the wheel was pulled back stage.

I was unshackled and they led me back to my seat on the side of the stage.

I can't even begin to explain how crazy this experience was. My heart is still pounding right now, two days after the show.

Needless to say, when the show ended I got the occasional "Oh my God, that's that guy," and "Can I get your picture?" I, of course, stopped and talked to my people, as any celebrity would. I even had a guy offer me \$300 for the signed picture of Christina that I got for participating in the show. I told the guy that he was mildly creepy for being so obsessed with her, and continued walking toward my friends.

So there you have it. You can now say you know "that guy." I'm not afraid to say it: I'm a big deal. I did this for all of you. Someone had to be tied to that wheel. Someone had to get whipped, straddled and caressed by Christina Aguilera. All in a days work, my friends. All in a days work.

Sinister Slant



Scott Stewart

people's attitudes. These thoughts were welcome not only because I'm behind in writing papers for a couple of my philosophy classes, but also because I made a couple realizations I believe are worth sharing.

I spent Thursday evening attending the preview of *Nickel and Dimed*, the UNO theatre production focusing on the plight of the working class. If you haven't seen this play yet, I would strongly encourage you to do so, or at least read Barbara Ehrenreich's book by the same title.

Anyway, the play achieved its rather overt goal of getting me to reflect about minimum wage laws in this country. They're preposterous. They're offensively low. Even Congress's recent proposal to increase the minimum wage to \$7.25 an hour doesn't go far enough.

The next insight came Saturday, as couple of my friends and I joined a handful of other animal rights advocates handing out flyers in front of the Civic Auditorium, where the annual Tangier Shrine Circus was being held.

If you've never taken part in a protest or even a less antagonistic leafleting event, it's definitely something worth doing. Better yet, if you're not in a hurry, just hang out by the people handing out flyers and listen to some of the nasty, ignorant things a few people say and do as they walk by.

I mean, c'mon everybody, it's just a few pieces of paper expressing some ideas. You'd think these people must go around burning newspapers and magazines, given some of their reactions.

Of course, maybe it's just that some of us are silly enough to believe that animals have feelings after looking into the eyes of gorilla at the Henry Doorly Zoo, playing with our puppy in our yards or even trying to understand the complex psychosis that is being a cat.

Somehow, I just can't bring myself to think a tiger leaping "across the arena on his back legs alone" or elephants demonstrating their "beauty and intelligence," but not their allegedly non-existent dignity or emotions, is what these animals want to do.

Nevertheless, I can understand some of the hostility people give organizations like People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, the American Civil Liberties Union or even my friends' recently formed Omaha Action for Animals group. These organizations ask people to consider foreign viewpoints as well as encourage them to change their lifestyles and beliefs. Sometimes the techniques employed are more reminiscent of an aggressive proselytizer than a civilized call for moral and political reform.

What I can't understand, though, is the out-of-hand dismissal of other people's

ideas. What is so offensive about asking a person to examine what they believe, unless they secretly suspect that their beliefs are somehow wrong and they don't want to change their behavior? And, if that's the case, how do they avoid feeling guilty, or do just live with the guilt?

There are a lot of beliefs I hold that I've come to only by critically examining what I know. The reason I support the animal rights movement and am myself a vegetarian is that I have interacted with animals. I believe that in many respects, animals are not any different from humans. This idea is not a new one, either; the ancient Greeks believed animals had souls, which is a reason the Pythagoreans were vegetarians, and Buddhism teaches that rebirth can happen as an animal, who are just as capable of suffering as humans.

People just don't seem to care about animals, and it's not because they're not exposed to these ideas, that they don't have the opportunity to examine their actions.

On the contrary, it seems like people actively avoid thinking about the plight of animals, or of the working poor, or of innocents whose lives are touched by war, or of many others deserving of mention.

This is where my thoughts about minimum wage and animal rights come together.

People do not have a positive attitude about progress. They view progressives, liberals, truly compassionate conservatives, humanitarians, activists and anyone else who wants to improve society as somehow crazy or just not practical. Idealism has no place in the bread-and-circuses mentality of the American public.

Where's the anger? Where's the sense of moral indignity? Where's our collective call to end injustice, eliminate suffering and increase everyone's quality of life?

At least the protestors who lobby against abortion, for instance, seem to have a genuine conviction about something. I wish many of them followed their own reasoning to include anti-war, anti-death-penalty, pro-vegetarian views, but at least most of them are sincere.

It's time that Americans wake up and start thinking about the world we live in. We're supposed to be the most powerful country in the world, with some of the best minds, greatest talent and most resources anywhere. We need to put these to use to improve society, not produce the next Hollywood blockbuster or even design a faster microchip.

This need not be through activism in the form of protests or joining pro/anti-whatever groups. It can be as simple as asking other people questions or thinking about the implications of your own actions. Although sometimes holding a sign isn't a bad idea, either.

Besides, there is no better place than a university setting to start this process. At UNO we have access to a good library, with interlibrary loan privileges with institutions across the state. We have great faculty, intelligent students and passionate people. There is no better place in town to start working towards a brighter future.

The more we can convince people to have a more open, reflective attitude towards new ideas, whether they be good or bad ideas, the more sure we can be about our actions as individuals, as a campus and as a society.

In the end, I think most people already know this; they just need to be reminded of the rewards of having a voice in a country that's supposed to be a democracy.

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From **TRACK:** Page 9

photo by Jason Glenn

Junior Tahnee Tuenge, right, carries a few strides on sophomore teammate Kelli Mertes in the 1,000-meter run Saturday.

sophomore Kelli Mertes and freshman MaryMargaret Nelson moved the Mavs into third with their win Friday night, and the dominant 4x400 lineup of Monger, Kampschnieder, Clarkson and Saka blew away the field to cap the tournament and the Mavericks' milestone victory.

After it was all over and Smith sat in the locker room changing into dry clothes, the first-year coach paid tribute to the Mavericks' past, specifically former Coach Tim Hendricks who retired in August after 19 years leading the track and cross

motivated her to fight through the pain.

"I iced it really good, took some ibuprofen, got it going and just went out there and did my best," she said. "I just kept looking at the team score and that's what it was for -- the team."

Fittingly, it was the team's collaborative efforts in the relay races that punctuated both days of competition.

The distance medley squad of Kampschnieder, junior Tahnee Tuenge,

country teams.

"A lot of this is the guy before me; most of those athletes are his," he said. "It just kind of gelled."

But he also looked to a potentially bright future for UNO in the NCAA II National Meet.

"Every event we were in, our girls stepped it up and really performed well; everybody on the team contributed. If they run like this, we can be top-10," he said.

From **BASEBALL:** Page 10

in a run in the third inning.

From that point, the Tiger pitchers were lights out, and the Mavericks were unable to send another run home until late in game two, when it was too late. It was typical early-season rustiness, but it didn't help that the squad had been indoors for months.

"[Thursday] was our first day playing outside, and we looked like it," said Coach Bob Herold.

The team then traveled to Denver to take on the Rangers of Regis University, showing up in the mile-high city in time to play four more games in two days.

In the opener of the two game bill, each team left the yard four times, but UNO was outslugged and lost a 15-10 fistfight.

The second game was much of the

same, and after a 9-6 loss to move to 0-4 on the season, Herold again made no bones about his team's play.

"We didn't look very good," said Herold, acknowledging his team's rocky, though fatigue-induced start to the season.

UNO had to respond with a better effort in Saturday's double-header, and respond they did. Payback came in the form of 9-5 and 10-9 wins in two more games full of punches and counter-punches.

"We don't want to be in that situation," said Herold about falling behind early in Saturday's games. "We'd rather strike early, but I think we really responded well."

The Mavericks take their two-game win streak into Missouri on Friday, for four games in a five-day period.

From **MEN'S B-BALL:** Page 10

dominating rebounding effort by the Bulldogs. Ending with a 38-25 rebounding edge, Duluth muscled out a 69-64 win and dashed the chance for an NCC Tournament game in Omaha.

The Minnesota road trip only got tougher for the Mavericks, facing NCC powerhouse and defending conference champion Mankato on Saturday.

Again, UNO built an lead early, but couldn't hold it. The Mavericks were blown out by Minnesota State, something teams in the NCC are becoming all too familiar with.

"They're playing as well or better than any team in the conference right now," said Maverick Coach Derrin Hansen of the "other" Mavericks. With the Conference Tournament set to begin Wednesday, Hansen knows they are the team to beat.

"It's going to take a complete effort to

beat them," he said.

Not all is lost for the Mavericks, but the road ahead of them will be a difficult one.

St. Cloud State welcomes the road-weary Mavs into their home building for the first round of the North Central Conference Tournament. Hansen expressed concern with St. Cloud State's skill level both in the paint and on the perimeter.

"They have good guards and a good inside game," said Hansen. "It's really 'pick your poison' with them."

The poison for UNO this season was any contest away from Omaha, and Hansen points to an inability to finish as the main reason for his team's woeful mark in conference road games.

"We had late leads in half of those games," noted Hansen. "We just have to be tougher down the stretch."

From **NICKEL AND DIMED:** Page 7

machine asking her questions. She says of searching for housing, "When I started looking, I didn't know 'trailer trash' would become a title I'd aspire to."

What follows is Barbara's sometimes literally dizzying descent into the world of low-paying jobs, back-breaking labor and the heart-wrenching reality that so many people live each day. She learns, as she says at the end of the play, "Our whole lives are subsidized by the working poor. They're our biggest anonymous donors."

This message is one the UNO production goes at great lengths to drive home to its audience, particularly in a breakout scene performed right before intermission where the cast asked the audience who among them had ever hired help. They point out the custodians at UNO and the maid service provided to some south campus residences, concluding that "there's plenty of privilege here at UNO." They even mentioned the recent faculty's salary increase, noting the advance the faculty has over non-faculty staff members because the faculty has a union.

During intermission, flyers were available with information about minimum wage laws and the concept of "wage slavery," where people may be voluntarily employed but have no realistic alternatives to working a dead-

end job.

The final act draws the crowd back in to learn of Barbara's experience at "Mall-Mart," a business whose blue vests and preference of the word "associate" over "employee" might remind some people of a certain real-life corporation. After a red tag sale, a fuchsia tag sale and a much-anticipated burnt-sienna tag sale, it's easy to understand the frustration that Smith so wonderfully emotes on behalf of Ehrenreich.

Director Doug Paterson, in his director's notes, said this is "a play about human beings." He is completely right about this; every scene, every statistic, every sardonic joke reminds the audience just how real this story is, how so many people look everywhere for just some glimmer of hope.

Everyone who has ever worked a low-paying job, and particularly those who have never had to live on its income, should see this production. It just might open your eyes to the world around us.

Remaining performances of *Nickel and Dimed* are Feb. 28 through March 3, with all shows starting at 7:30 p.m. at the theatre located in the Weber Fine Arts Building. Tickets are \$15 for the public or \$12 for students and seniors and are available at the box office or by phone at 554-2335.

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